

Remarks

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-22 will remain in the application with Claims 1, 8 and 15 in independent form. Claims 1, 8 and 15 are currently amended. Claims 2-7 and 16-20 remain as originally filed. Claims 9-14 and 21 remain as previously presented. Claim 22 is new.

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,72,345 to Bright.

Claims 1, 8 and 15 are currently amended to require that the first region of the carrier includes a width and a first flexibility and the second region of the carrier includes a width equal to the width of the first region of the carrier and further includes a second flexibility different from the first flexibility. As such, it is the different mechanical modifications to the carrier within the first region and the second region that provide the different flexibilities between the first region and the second region, and not a different width of the carrier.

The Bright reference discloses a carrier for a weatherstrip having a carrier that includes the same pattern of mechanical modifications throughout the entire length of the carrier. The different flexibilities of the different regions of the carrier disclosed in the Bright reference are achieved through the different widths of the different regions of the carrier. Accordingly, the Bright reference fails to disclose that the first region of the carrier includes a width and a first flexibility and the second region of the carrier includes a width equal to the width of the first region of the carrier and further includes a second flexibility different from the first flexibility as required by the currently amended claims 1, 8 and 15. Therefore, Applicant respectfully

submits that claims 1, 8 and 15 are not anticipated by the Bright reference and are therefore patentable. As claims 2-7 and 22 are all either directly or indirectly dependent upon claim 1, claims 9-14 and 21 are all either directly or indirectly dependent upon claim 8, and claims 16-20 are all either directly or indirectly dependent upon claim 15, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-22 are also not anticipated by the Bright reference, and are therefore patentable.

The remaining references cited but not applied to the claims have been considered. Since the Examiner has apparently considered these references as less pertinent than the above discussed reference(s), further discussion of the non-applied references, at this time, is considered unnecessary. However, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the subject patent application patentably define over all references of record either independently or in combination.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Application, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2789 in the name of Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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